

Coventry Fire District Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2015
Anthony Fire Station
6:00pm

Board Members Present: John Cook, John D'Onofrio, Frank Palin, Sam Rachiele, Brenda Raposo

Others Present: Attorney Timothy Williamson, Treasurer David Krekorian, Fire Chief Bob Warren, Tax Collector Rob Catalfamo

Meeting begins with Emergency Exits and Evacuation, Roll Call, Salute to the flag Introduction of new Tax Collector. John D'Onofrio says " I would like to make a motion that we approve the minutes from the last meeting". Seconded by Sam Rachiele. All in favor? All said Aye.

Tax Collector Gives Report. Frank Palin says " Can I hear a Motion to approve the tax collectors report"? John D'Onofrio says " Motion to approve tax collectors report". Seconded by Brenda Raposo. All those in favor? All said Aye.

Treasurer David Krekorian gives his report. A synopsis of what has happened since last month. He states account balances, and that all bills that have been approved by the board have been paid. David explains that we had one unexpected expense and the reason is because the company that administers the co-pays for medical had not deducted any funds from our account. The company had paid them from their own account and now have charged our account the appropriate amount of approx \$31,000.00.

David adds as a side note that when he did notice the funds being withdrawn that he had contacted the company for an accounting of the transaction. David did get reports to back up the transaction

after a second phone call was made. David inquired about a formal notice given to the board or the fire district that this mistake had been made and the reply was “no”.

David states the next round of tax payments are due April 30th. He encourages the board and the tax collector to pursue tax sales and collections. He would like to hold a budget meeting to discuss retirees and non-employees who may be on Blue Cross to determine how long they should be on. He would also like to discuss vacation time and overtime pay and review the status of an employee out with an injury.

David states former Chief has submitted a claim for unemployment, which he and Atty. Williamson have responded to. He states we do not pay into unemployment insurance so, it is his understanding that if he is awarded unemployment compensation we would have to pay him from our account.

David states that he has received an email from Ben Perra regarding the state report. He states has printed out all the reports required by the state and will start going through them next week. Frank Palin asks to hear a motion to accept the treasurers’ report. John D’onofrio says “motion to approve treasurers’ report”. Seconded by John Cook. All those in favor? All said Aye.

Chief’s Report:

Chief speaks of a busy week with a fire on Knotty Oak road and It’s challenges with icy conditions and hydrant problems. He states they did receive help from neighboring stations and that the fire is still under investigation. He states all combinations for door locks have been changed. He states that he has given the code to Mr. Palin for the Board and ask that it not be given out to anyone.

He states the ladder truck has been tested and it has passed, however the bill for the test must be paid before a certificate stating such will be issued. He stated that he as gotten a quote to repair a fire truck, the estimated cost for repair to bring the truck to

where it should be, is in excess of \$17,000.00. His personal recommendation is that it not be repaired. He also recommends that the truck be put up for bid. He states that the truck will not be used and will be stripped of its equipment. He has ordered two sets of gear with previous permission and awaiting final number to come in.

Chief Warren stated that he will be working with new Central Coventry Chief Murry. He speaks of an upcoming meeting with all the fire chiefs in town to work a plan for next winter. Fire gear that was bought previously is having problems and it will be returned. Product is under warranty but it is undermined to what extent. Before any repair or replacements are issued they will contact us,

A housing development of 25 houses is coming to Tiogue Ave area which will require the addition of two fire hydrants.

Lastly Chief Warren recognizes the firemen and the job they have done during this difficult winter. He states that they have worked a lot of hours and he has heard that people are upset over the amount of overtime that is paid and asks, "Give me another way"? He stated that he needs them, there is nothing else he can do and that they earn every "Godforsaken penny".

John Cook makes a motion to accept the Chiefs' Report, seconded by Sam Rachiele. All those in favor? All said aye.

John D'onofrio: "I would like to make a motion to move to executive session, reason pursuant to Rhode Island general law 42-46-4, A pursuant to Rhode Island general law 42-46-5 a-1

Reconvene Public Session:

John D'onofrio makes a motion to seal the executive minutes all voted in favor via roll call, stating their name followed by aye.

Attorney Williamson presents:

Mr. Williamson goes over documents pertaining to Public Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act from the Attorney Generals Office. He states that everything should always go through the chair, and the decorum should be set by the chair. If someone wants to speak at a meeting, they should always identify themselves and their address. He speaks of the importance of keeping order during open meetings so that the records are always clear. He suggest the use of a gavel in case order is needed to be called, He states that those that want to speak and address the board should go to a designated place so they can be recognized and not just stay where they are and speak. If a question is relevant to the agenda, the board can either answer or defer answer till they have one. If during public common, you can take it under advisement and you do not have to respond at all.

Personal matters are not to be discussed in public unless the person involved has approved of that and has authorized the board to do that. Complaints should be put in writing. He explains that one person should not monopolize the floor and to limit their time so all can be heard,

Recommends that the board review the 4 page rules of conduct documents and asks if they have any ideas to add, subtract or amend they can have another session to put it together and vote on any changes.

Mr. Williamson explains that even though there are many different types of meetings including workshops, should follow the guidelines contained within the documents he has given to the board. If there are any questions please contact his office.

The question is asked if minutes should be taken at workshops.

He suggest yes. Treasurer states he is not a board member and asked if there is anything that he should be concerned about.

Mr. Williamson responds if there is a request for his records or what he is doing that he would go through him (Williamson) and they would discuss it and they would provide a response or not.

If A request for records that are not public is made he will notify that person and they can appeal that through the Attorney General or Superior Court. Mr. Williamson tells Treasurer Krekorian that he is an agent of the board and he falls under the umbrella of the board and does not need to keep his own minutes.

Meeting adjourned